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ABSTRACT

This book argues that the best solution to higher education's conflicts over culture and "political correctness" is to teach the conflicts themselves. The book suggests making intellectual conflict part of the universities' object of study and thereby more successfully engaging students in the world of ideas and learning. The book argues that parties and disciplines have so far handled the cultural conflicts with a separatist approach which leaves students out and teaches subjects in an isolated fashion without showing their connections to each other. Chapter 1 presents the background and aim of the book. Chapter 2 describes two episodes in the culture war in the university. Chapter 3 suggests some ways to clarify educational vision. Chapter 4 looks at how to draw students into reading and conversing about book. Chapter 5 explores our cultural ambivalence toward the "life of the mind." Chapter 6 discusses in detail the separatism of courses and disciplines on campus. Chapter 7 explores the roots of curricular incoherence by looking at educational history. Chapter 8 examines "politics" in the academic setting. Chapter 9 looks at campuses which are actively addressing the culture wars. Includes an index and 227 notes. (JB)

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